

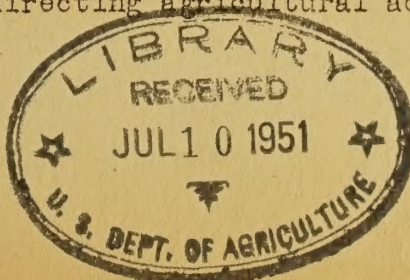
3 BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Claude Raymond Wickard was born February 28, 1893, on the Carroll County, Indiana, farm that had been in the Wickard Family since the 1840's. It is located near Camden, Indiana.

After graduation from Purdue University in Agriculture in 1915, he returned home to take over complete management of the farm. During the time Wickard ran the farm, he added 100 acres of land, bringing his total operations to 380 acres. Also during that time he distinguished himself by initiating improved farming and feeding policies that won him many medals and led to his selection as a "Master Farmer of Indiana" in 1927. Mr. Wickard organized and for many years was president of the Carroll County Farm Bureau Cooperative which has attained remarkable success.

He was a member of the Indiana State Senate in 1933 and in that same year he was an Indiana delegate to the National Corn-Hog Conference at Des Moines, Iowa, then was made a member of the National Corn-Hog Committee of Twenty-Five which helped set up the original AAA Corn-Hog Program. Soon he was appointed assistant chief of the AAA corn-hog section; in 1935 he was made chief. When the AAA inaugurated its agricultural conservation program in 1936, he was named assistant director of the North Central Division, and in a short time was made director.

On February 1, 1940, after six and a half years with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Mr. Wickard was appointed Undersecretary of Agriculture. He was made Secretary of Agriculture on September 5, 1940, and served throughout the war period directing agricultural action that saw American



farmers accomplish record achievements in food production. His first public appearance as Secretary was to dedicate an REA-financed generating plant at Cassopolis, Michigan.

After five years as Secretary he was sworn in as Rural Electrification Administrator where he continues to back the right of farmers to organize and serve themselves. Under Mr. Wickard's leadership of REA, from July 1945 to December 1950, the Agency's borrowers energized nearly 700,000 miles of electric line and added more than 2,000,000 consumers. The first figure represents more than half of the total number of miles energized during REA's 15-year history; the second represents nearly two-thirds of the total number of consumers connected. Farm electrification increased from 11 percent in 1935 to 45 percent in 1945, and to about 90 percent at the close of 1950.

Also in Mr. Wickard's service with REA, Congress authorized REA to make telephone loans after the pattern established by the electrification loans. Less than a year from the approval of the new law, the first REA-financed telephones went into service.

Over 900 REA-financed cooperatives found a champion of their cause in him. "Co-ops," he says, "are potentially one of the strongest forces in the economic battle for the survival of free and private enterprise. They promote more widespread ownership of business. They help to boost the real income of the people, thereby increasing consumer demand and stimulating employment."